

March 18, 1952

Dr. Erich Seligmann
Beth Israel Hospital
Stuyvesant Park East
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Seligmann:

I am writing to ask whether you can give me any help or suggestions for securing some cultures for our work in Salmonella genetics.

My first request concerns O-variants from normally OH-types, in groups B and D. There seems to be no systematic way of finding such non-motile variants, and I am obliged to seek to take advantage of the incidental observations of a laboratory like yours. We have already worked with a typhimurium O-form, but if you have access to instances other than those listed by Edwards, they would be quite useful. If the original OH-form is still available, this would be helpful, but not essential.

The second point that I am raising (almost in desperation) has to do with the "flagellar phages" originally described by Sertic and Boulgakery, and later by Rakieta & Bornstein. Rakieta is rather pessimistic about the chances, but I wondered if there were any possibility that you or your colleagues might know something about those phages.

I want to thank you for your favors in time past. Your colleagues and yourself may, perhaps, be interested in the enclosed abstract of a forthcoming paper on our work with S. typhimurium.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics